

URGENT INFORMATION FOR BIRD OWNERS



Exotic Newcastle disease (END) is one of the most deadly poultry diseases in the world. END was recently found in Arizona, California and Nevada by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). END is fatal, killing more than 90 percent of the chickens it infects. More than 12 million chickens died because of an END outbreak in California between 1971 and 1973.

USDA declared an emergency because of END, establishing quarantines that ban people from moving chickens, gamefowl and other birds in the following three States:

- Arizona (La Paz, Mohave and Yuma counties);
- California (Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, Santa Barbara, San Bernardino and Ventura counties);
- Nevada (Clark and Nye counties).

Exotic Newcastle disease threatens your outdoor birds because it is easily spread by moving chickens. The virus is potent and can last on surfaces for weeks. Follow these steps to protect your birds in this time of crisis:

- Only purchase birds from a business operating under an approved **Nevada State Bird or Feed Store Agreement** in the quarantined area.
- Do not visit anyone who has birds in a quarantined area. Even though birds may look healthy, you may end up carrying the disease back to your birds on your clothing, shoes and hands.
- Do not vaccinate your birds. They can still get the disease and die. Although they may live a bit longer, a vaccinated bird will only spread the deadly virus to more of your valuable birds.
- Keep your birds at home. Please call the hotline if your birds, or your neighbors' birds, get sick or die.

Exotic Newcastle disease poses no risk to human health and does not affect the safety of poultry meat and eggs. For more information about END, please contact:

- Arizona Department of Agriculture: <http://agriculture.state.az.us/>
(602) 364-1539
- California Department of Food and Agriculture: <http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/>
(800) 491-1899
- Nevada Department of Agriculture: <http://agri.state.nv.us/>
(866) 490-2991
- USDA: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/>
- e-mail: newcastledisease2003@yahoo.com

